

Price of a barrel of petroleum
US\$ 62.93
1.12 ▼

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

BULL RUN



Revelers run on Estafeta Street, during the run of the Alcurrucen fighting bulls at the San Fermin festival, in Pamplona, northern Spain, Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Thrillseekers sprinted through Pamplona in a swift and relatively clean start to the running of the bulls. See World News See Page B9

SPORTS NEWS

LANCE A LOT



American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, second in row, rides with his Astana teammates during the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, a team time-trial over 24.2 miles with start and finish in Montpellier, southern France, Tuesday July 7, 2009.

See Sports Today Page B10

23rd Edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds comes to a close

By Eef Hermers

Special to Aruba Today

ORANJESTAD - Alexis Carache from Venezuela was the big winner of the Aruba Hi-Winds that was held at the Fishermen Huts July 1-6. In the Junior Class (14-18 years) Bonairean Bjorn Saragoza won 8 out of 10 races. His father Patun ended first in the Masters (35-49 year) with 7 number 1 results.

Most surprising winners this year were the 14 year old Nicole van der Velden (Ladies Windsurfing) and 15 year old Annabel van Westerop (Ladies Kiting), both from Aruba.

Continued on Next Page



During a Press Conference at Moby Dick's in the Paseo Mall

Pachanga Dance School to compete in Curaçao

PALM BEACH - Top dancers and teachers from Pachanga Aruba Scol di baile recently held a press conference at Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant to announce their participation in the upcoming Curaçao Salsa Tour 2009. From August 5-9, they will represent Aruba in the 6th annual Curaçao Salsa Tour Dance Competition, where they will contend for prize money in excess of \$5,000.

"Pachanga" is both a type of music and way of dancing, but it also means to party. And party on the dance floor is exactly what Pachanga Aruba Scol di baile founders Oslin and Janice Boekhoudt do best.

Continued on Page 5

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23rd Edition of the Aruba Hi-Winds comes to a close



Continued from Front Page

In the Kids Class winners were Jean Patrick van der Wolde (Curacao), Ethan Westera (Aruba), Amado Vrieswijk (Bonaire) and Quincy Connor (Aruba). The 2 youngest participants, Maxime Kaan (Aruba) and Oscar Etmon (Curacao), were nominated by Aruba's Freestyle Windsurfing Champion Sarah-Quita Offringa who just came back home from a world event in



Lanzarote, Canari Islands.

This year the Aruba Hi-Winds were divided in a windsurf and a kitesurf category. During 5 days windsurfaces were held at the Fishermen Huts in the categories Men, Juniors, Ladies, Masters, Grandmasters (50 years and up) and Sports (first race experience). The kids races (under 14 years old) were held close to shore. Monday afternoon there was spectacular freestyle in 3 divisions that were all won by famous windsurfers from Bonaire: Amado Vrieswijk, Bjorn Saragoza and Choco Frans were crowned as Kid, Prince and King of the Huts. In the mornings over 30 kites headed of in a party bus to Boca Grandi for a freestyle competition. The kites from Aruba, Bonaire, Venezuela and even Czech Republic and Slovakia showed high, spectacular jumps. Like past years, the level was high. The judges looked at numerous jumps, from 'backrolls' to 'frontmobs'. Because they had some time left, the last day 'hangtime' races were organized. With their stopwatch judges timed how long a kiter could stay in the air. The record was 5.5 seconds: a real good job with



light winds.

The atmosphere in Boca Grandi was relaxed, although on a daily basis 35 heats of each 5 minutes were held. Absolute eye catcher this year was 15 year old Annabel van Westerop from Aruba. She started kitesurfing a year ago, but seemed to have gathered so much talent in the few last months, that she won first place, leaving Elisa Castillo from Venezuela and Leonie de Haan from Holland behind. From Bonaire Pieter Zweers, participating in this event for many years, brought his 14 year old son Christiaan, who made world class jumps and became third in the Men Category. We definitely will hear more from this kid in the future. The Aruban twin brothers Quincy and Wesley Connor were famous windsurfers for years and

showed this year that they can also kitesurf, taking the first two places in Sports.

At the end of the event, the awards ceremony was held in Paseo Herencia. All winners got beautiful prizes (gift certificates, windsurf and kite equipment) and volunteers, sponsors and the Aruba Tourism Authority were praised. Hi-Winds and it's organizers Charles Meijer, Evert Bongers, Marin Bijl, Frank and Wim Eelens once again did a fabulous job. □



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THE HAGUE--If talks with the Netherlands to resolve the stalemate don't yield results, Aruba will take the issue of being overruled in the Kingdom Council of Ministers to international institutions.

Aruba's Minister Plenipotentiary in The Hague Frido Croes stated this in an interview with The Daily Herald on Monday. "We are evaluating steps to see in which way we can involve international institutions like the United Nations (UN) Decolonisation Committee to assess the process of decision taking in the Kingdom Council of Ministers," he said.

Aruba believes that the Netherlands is not sticking to the rules and wants to ensure that in the future its autonomous position as country in the Kingdom is duly respected.

Croes said a "great error" was committed by using Article 43 of the Charter to overrule Aruba on the draft Consensus Kingdom Law to establish the Joint Court of Justice of the countries Aruba, Curaçao, St. Maarten and the public entities Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Article 43 allows the Kingdom Council of Ministers to overrule a partner in the Kingdom based on the Kingdom's responsibility to guarantee fundamental human rights, freedom, maintenance of law and order and good governance.

But Croes said he hoped Aruba wouldn't have to go as far as approaching the UN. Aruba

has several meetings planned this week with various Dutch Ministries and the Council of State to discuss the draft Consensus Kingdom Law for the Joint Court of Justice and the process of decision taking in the Kingdom Council of Ministers.

Aruba is objecting to maintaining the seat of the Joint Court of Justice in Willemstad. The island wants the seat in Oranjestad. "We think we have a valid claim to demand the seat. We have been an autonomous country for 23 years, while Curaçao only now becomes a country," said Croes.

According to the Minister Plenipotentiary, there was an agreement that Justice would become a Kingdom matter, just like Defence. "We want that anchored in the draft law. We didn't see any of that back in the legislation that the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles want to push through. We want this law to be a true consensus law," he said.

Croes, during the meeting of the Kingdom Council of Ministers last Friday, requested an internal consultation to discuss the issue in a "tranquil" manner. Croes also asked to reconvene the meeting of the Kingdom Council of Ministers on Monday, which would give Aruba the chance to fly in a member of its cabinet.

The Kingdom Council of Ministers, however, went ahead and approved the draft Consensus Kingdom Law on

Aruba considers involving UN

the Joint Court last Friday. The Netherlands Antilles also voted in favour, because the draft law needed to get to the Second Chamber quickly, so it could be approved after the summer recess. A hold-up of the draft law would have meant a delay of the constitutional process. But, said Croes, "Time should not be an indicator in this process. We need to focus more on reaching consensus."

Croes said he was "very thankful" for the support of St. Maarten's Island Council on the issue of the use of Article 43. He said Aruba supported St. Maarten's efforts to become an autonomous country.

He said the incident during Friday's meeting again shows the democratic deficit that exists in the Kingdom. "Relations in the Kingdom are supposed to be based on mutual respect and equality. That is not the case," he said. Friday's incident has caused a "major dent" in the relations between the Netherlands and Aruba, he added.

Relations were already troubled because of the announcement last month by Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten that there would be an investigation into Aruba's state of affairs. Members of the First and Second Chamber had asked for this investigation.

Croes said Aruba is not against an investigation, but, he added, the investigation has to be based on facts and not hearsay. "Aruba is an autonomous country. The Netherlands cannot simply impose an investigation without our involvement," he said. Aruba's Prime Minister Nel Oduber confirmed in a letter to Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende that in principle Aruba is not objecting to an investigation.

The Minister Plenipotentiary suspected that the Netherlands

might be playing a "political game," as the September 25 elections are approaching in Aruba. "Maybe they want to influence the elections. That is not acceptable, because this is an internal Aruban matter. It leaves a bitter taste."

Aruba is also objecting to the language being used in the Second Chamber to describe members of the Aruban Government. Some members of Parliament have used words

like "thief" and "coward" to describe Prime Minister Oduber and Justice Minister Rudy Croes.

"That shows lack of respect," said Croes, who wrote a letter to Chair person Gerdi Verbeet of the Second Chamber to address this issue. "I have been told that the letter will be discussed in the next meeting of the Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs," he said. □

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Waldy Simson visits Prime Minister Nelson Oduber



Aruba

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Waldy Simson

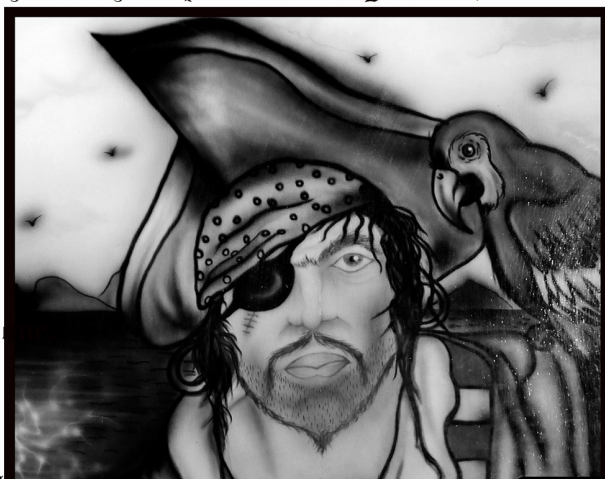
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ORANJESTAD – Recently the polifacetic artist Waldy Simson visited with the Prime Minister, Nelson Oduber. The Prime Minister received from Simson a framed copy of one of his poems. The poem 'Aruba' was written based on Aruba's beauty and it will be an important part

of Simson's book "Nieuwe Pennenvruchten" (New Pen Fruits). The artist has also written about his encounter with Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

Prime Minister Oduber thanked Simson for his gift, and wished him success with his new book. □





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Pachanga Dance School to compete in Curaçao



Continued from Front Page
These pioneers of salsa dancing in Aruba regularly teach and perform and are winners of the 2002 I.D.O. World Salsa Championship, as well as the 2004 Curaçao Salsa Tour Championship. Again this year, Janice and

Oslin will spearhead Aruba's participation in Curaçao. During the six years since its inauguration, the Curaçao Salsa Tour has attracted increasing numbers of salsa lovers and salseros from around the world to its five days of workshops,

competition, and live music beach parties.

Over 1,000 salsa dancers from locations as diverse as Aruba, Venezuela, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Surinam, the USA, and Europe are anticipated to participate in this year's event. As always, the tour will kick off with glitz and glamour at the Mambo Beach White Party "Salsa Explosion" where local and international dance teams will present their talent amidst palm trees, cool breezes, and bikinis. Packages are available for dancers and spectators, and further information about the Curaçao Salsa Tour is available at www.curaçaosalsatour.com.

For information about Pachanga Aruba Scol di baile, contact the owners at arubapachanga@hotmail.com. □



St. Maarten Hires Renowned Public Relations Firm



PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten - The St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, representing the Dutch side of the dual Dutch-French shared island nation, is expanding its marketing efforts to raise awareness of the destination across North America and has hired a well-renowned marketing and public relations agency to spearhead a new branding program and new

marketing initiatives.

KTCpr, lead by veteran travel industry consultant, writer and publicist Richard S. Kahn, has been retained by the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau to oversee all marketing, public relations, sales, advertising and promotional efforts on behalf of Dutch St. Maarten.

In addition, KTCpr has enlisted the assistance and

expert services of Tambourine (formerly Gideon-Cardozo), a well-known branding and advertising firm, which specializes in Caribbean hospitality and destination marketing. "We are very excited about this new team of experts that have been engaged to work with St. Maarten to help raise awareness of our destination and ultimately spur travelers to book vacations on our island as well as meet for business in our country," said the Honorable Frans Richardson, Commissioner of Tourism for St. Maarten.

"The team at KTCpr, and our extended group of marketing experts under the direction of Rafael Cardozo at Tambourine, are equally excited about the opportunity to work with this Caribbean destination, especially one that is so desirable for vacationers," said Richard S. Kahn, KTCpr president.

Marketing efforts and new initiatives will include the creation and design of a new

website, a branding exercise to focus on the attributes of the destination, an expanded public relations awareness campaign and a series of co-op advertising initiatives in conjunction with the private sector as well as with the French side of the destination.

KTCpr is a 19-year-old marketing consulting company formed by Richard S. Kahn, following his tenure as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Publisher of Travel Agent Magazine, a position he held for 15 years. Over the past 19 years, KTCpr has worked with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), representing the region, and continues to work with the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA), representing the private sector throughout the region.

KTCpr represents a diverse group of clients including several boutique hotels in the Caribbean and Mexico, destinations, tour operators, travel agencies and cruise lines and specializes in providing publicity creation, support and implementation including development of special promotions and design of promotional products for both travel trade and consumer distribution. In addition, the team at KTCpr generates writing, editing, layout and production for newsletters, as well as editorial creation, promotion and production of advertorial sections for consumer newspapers and magazines. KTCpr provides strategic marketing and planning for public relations, promotions and advertising.

Tambourine (formerly Gideon-Cardozo Communications), based in South Florida, is a full-service marketing firm specializing in advanced creative development. "While we service a diverse group of clients, we are proud to have played a major role in the success of the tourism and hospitality industries since 1983, and count among our clients several prestigious five-star resorts and island tourism boards throughout the Caribbean," said Rafael Cardozo, principal.

Cardozo added, "We have hands-on experience with the individual countries, cultures, and languages that comprise the region, as well as a keen understanding of the primary target market, the Caribbean traveler.

"For over 25 years we have partnered with Caribbean destinations and resorts to create distinctive brands that set our clients apart from their competition. We do this by understanding their points-of-difference that make them unique."

St. Maarten

St. Maarten is truly a unique island in several ways. It is the smallest island in the world to be shared by two nations, the Netherlands and France, creating a European-influenced vibe with a Caribbean flare. St. Maarten is also the culinary capital of the Caribbean with an eclectic array of elegantly-perfected culinary fusion that keeps "food lovers" returning each year. And with more than 300 restaurants, the island has something for everyone.

Located at the northern end of the Lesser Antilles, the island has 37 breathtaking beaches and is home to many historical and family-oriented attractions including the vastly abundant treasure trove of rare animal and plant species at the St. Maarten Zoological and Botanical Garden. The historically-pivotal Fort Amsterdam, the St. Maarten Museum and the picturesque and symbolic Mount Concordia, where a treaty and harmonious peace was forged between the island's two cultures more than 350 years ago, provide other unique attractions.

The Dutch capital of Philipsburg offers duty-free shopping and a bustling city atmosphere in the heart of the Caribbean, while nightlife activities provide endless entertainment at the island's 13 casinos and numerous nightclubs. For water enthusiasts scuba diving and snorkeling facilities are located throughout the island, which boasts a wide array of marine biodiversity and unique underwater dive sites such as the H.M.S. Proselyte, a notable British frigate which sank in St. Maarten's waters in 1801.

Accommodations are varied with many designed to exceed the expectations of even the most discerning traveler and include elegant private villas, family oriented resorts, quaint cottages and luxury spas resorts. Air service is available to Princess Juliana International Airport in St. Maarten from a number of U.S. and Canadian cities as well as Europe, South America and the Caribbean. □

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This includes cover, as well as special incentives designed to help make the Foxy Lady a place you will never forget. Contact the Foxy Lady today for more information via phone or email at: 297-566-6468. Located at Caya Captain Robert Rodger #37-39, San Nicolas, Aruba. □



Valero says Aruba refinery still operational

Valero Energy Corp said its 275,000-barrel-per-day Aruba refinery was operational Tuesday but still due for a planned 2- to 3-month shutdown in the first part of July, mainly due to economic reasons.

“The refinery units are still in operation,” said spokesman Bill Day when asked about a news report that the refinery will start the units' shutdown Tuesday.

“They will begin shutting the units in the first part of this month,” Day noted, but did not give a more specific date.

The refinery cannot produce finished motor fuels, but makes mid-stream products that are shipped to U.S. refineries for completion.

Though the outage comes as a result of poor profit margins, the refinery will conduct some “opportunistic maintenance” work during the planned outage, the spokesman said.

“This shutdown is for economic reasons, because of low margins and the economic situation,” Day said.

“We will keep the employees at the plant and we will do opportunistic maintenance on the units when they are shut down and we will also have training programs,” he added.

“After the two to three months, we will reevaluate the economic situation and make a decision about when the units may be restarted,” Day noted.

Valero, which is the top U.S. refiner, has been seeking a buyer for the refinery since late 2007. A deal in early 2008 with Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras fell through after a fire at the refinery. □

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Aruba Fairy Tale Wedding at Tierra del Sol

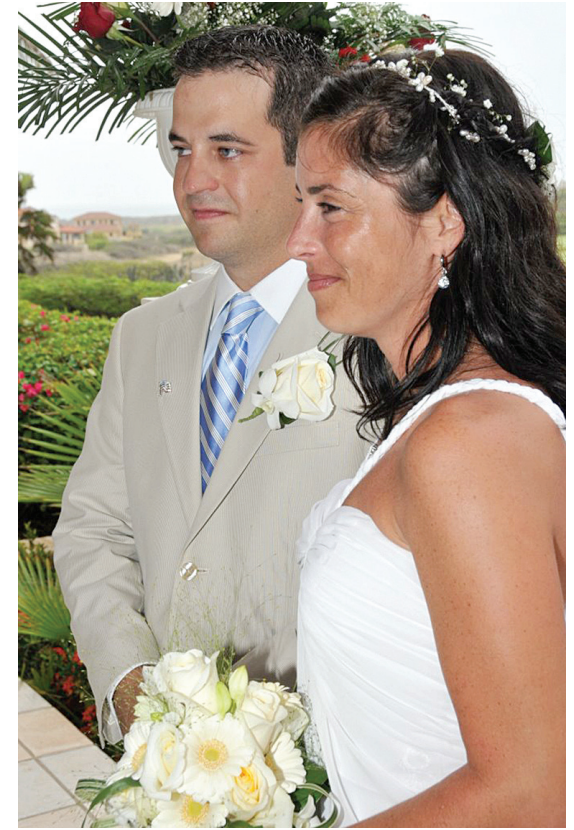
Sandra & Kevin exchange rings & vows



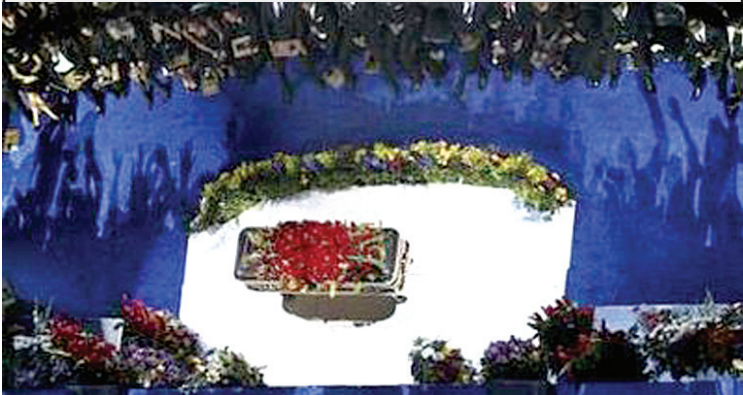
PALM BEACH - Sandra Finegan & Kevin Hassell celebrated their love for one another by exchanging rings and vows at Tierra del Sol just before the sun set into the Caribbean Sea. Family and friends flew to Aruba from the USA to witness Sandra and Kevin's Aruba Fairy Tale Wedding. After the ceremony officiated by Rev. Robert Gibson and photos on the green, the newlyweds invited their guests to a cocktail party on the veranda at Ventanas del Mar then a sit down dinner in the restaurant followed by dancing and wedding cake.

This fantasy country club wedding was coordinated by Indira Maduro of Aruba Fairy Tales together with her assistant Danielle. Everyone enjoyed the fabulous destination wedding at the Ventanas del Mar at Tierra del Sol, followed by a wonderful honeymoon and the start of a new life as husband and wife. Congratulations from Aruba Today.

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



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Melting thoughts into one layer
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To higher grounds of acceptance
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Inspired by the laws of love and nature
No words beyond or above all the emotions
Inside each and every soul
Being part of God's great family
Trying to heal the world
And making it a better place
For all human race
To let our little light shine
In a darkness not comprehended
The light of love and beauty inside our souls
The key to forgiveness as part of the goal
And be the best we can
As a valley or as a tree
As a flower, growing so free
As a road sign, teach us to see...
On a highway that was meant to be
To be the best we can be .

*Author : Ruthy" Lady Ruth " Vrieswijk-Bergen
Aruba, July 7 th, 2009*

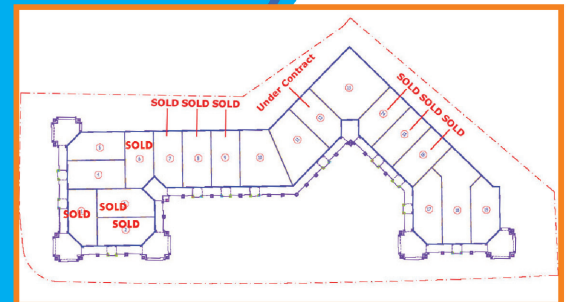


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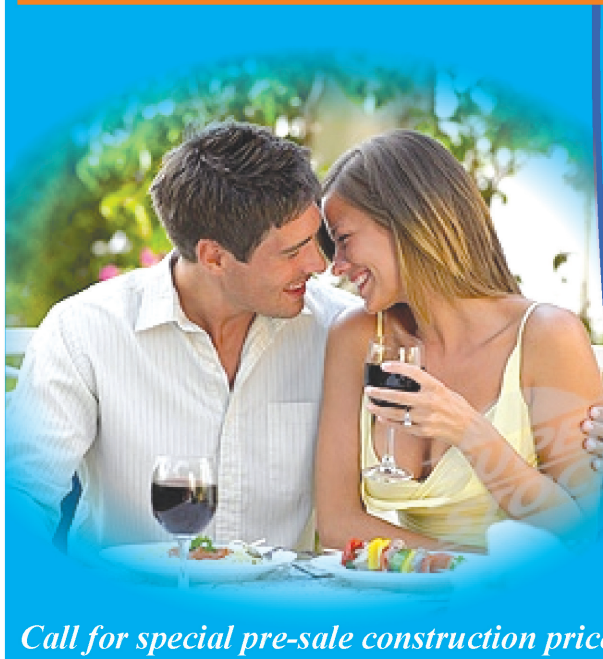
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Friday afternoon with DJ Jeroen at Bugaloe



PALM BEACH - Rhythm-driven DJ Jeroen is getting the vibes going, the adrenaline surging and the blood pumping on Fridays, when the popular local disc jockey is playing his

music in beach bar Bugaloe. From 5 to 10 pm you can see this energetic man in action and listen to his easy lounge music early in the evening. Soothe your souls at sunset,



is his motto. Jeroen's music changes as darkness falls and dancing gets underway. Bugaloe, which is a great hang-out for locals as well as for visitors, has an extended menu, by the way. Choose a 'broodje frikandel' or 'broodje kroket', snacks that the Dutch crave, or a healthy grouper special or the fish platter. So don't forget to come by at Bugaloe on Fridays to hear DJ Jeroen play, and start the weekend on a high note. Happy Hour at the beach bar, located on the De Palm Pier between the Riu Palace and the Radisson Resort, is from 5 to 6 pm, with special prices for Amstel Bright and mojitos. □





The word thyroid comes from the Greek “thura” which means “door,” from the shape of the cartilage in front of your throat. Your thyroid gland is the largest endocrine gland situated in front, lower part of the neck. Your thyroid gland secretes iodine- rich hormones thyroxin and triiodothyronine which regulate your metabolism rate; but its effects are felt all over the body.

Thyroid glands that are not functioning optimally produce a myriad of symptoms. Many people experience unexplained cold hands and feet, low body temperature, sensitivity to cold, a feeling of always being chilled, headaches, insomnia, dry skin and hair, puffy eyes, hair loss, brittle nails, joint aches, constipation, mental dullness, fatigue, frequent infections, PMS symptoms, hoarse voice, ringing in the ears, dizziness, depression, fluid retention, anxiety and panic attacks, allergies, asthma, acne, skin hives, loss of libido, and weight gain, which is sometimes uncontrollable.

We estimate that here in Aruba approximately 80 percent of our population is overweight of which 45 percent is clinically obese. An insufficiently nourished thyroid might be the number one cause of weight problems, especially among women, in the West today. Research indicates that up to 10 percent of Westerners have a thyroid problem that has most likely gone unrecognized.

If you are experiencing

any of the symptoms above your doctor could send you to check your thyroid function through a blood test. Unfortunately, the test results may not be accurate. The problem is that all of us are unique and your thyroid hormone levels are not like anyone else's, therefore “normal” values do not necessarily apply to an individual.

Thyroid tests will not give you an accurate indication of your ideal thyroid hormone level, because they are missing a critical piece of information which is your peak thyroid level when you were young and healthy. Should your thyroid test results indicate that you are in the “normal” range... say 5.5...but when you were younger you would have tested at a 9, then indeed, your thyroid is quite under active for you. At 5.5 you may feel very tired yet your doctor will tell you that your test results are “normal.”

You can only truly compare you with you, and not a range of others. It would be ideal if we were tested when we were in our late teens and twenties and our peak levels were recorded at the topmost physical time in our life. Then, as we age, we could test ourselves again to ensure that our hormone levels remain at this peak level.

The second reason that the tests are often inaccurate is because they only show what your thyroid hormone levels are on the day of testing. Your thyroid is a “tricky” organ to both diagnose and treat since its hormone levels fluctuate all the

Throat's Door



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

time. What you eat each day has a tremendous and immediate impact on it, and how much hormone it secretes.

A third reason for their inaccuracy is that the tests do not indicate if your thyroid hormone is really entering your cells. Your thyroid may be manufacturing plenty of hormone but your cells have become resistant to the hormone and are not able to utilize it. This condition is called Wilson's Syndrome. If you have a body temperature of less than 98.6 F. and some of the symptoms listed above you could have this condition.

In our clinic we see a lot of hypo or low functioning thyroids. The first solution is to put our patients on their metabolic type food list. Because of today's diet, many people will likely never experience outstanding thyroid health, unless they are encouraged to change their eating habits.

Your thyroid can be nourished better with a diet that includes the good fats (coconut oil, pumpkinseed oil, unsalted

butter, olive oil and egg yolks) and the mineral-rich foods (dark green leafy vegetables, sea salt and ocean veggies) that help tremendously in building a strong thyroid.

Of course these recommendations are not the same for everyone. We need to be cognizant of the foods that are best for our metabolic types.

Most thyroid patients are women and many with low progesterone are often misdiagnosed as thyroid deficiency. Thyroid and sex hormones have a promoting action on the other. In our clinic we treat many women with bulging eyes, racing heartbeat, and a swollen neck by naturally stimulating their progesterone production.

Irregular periods, often leading to needless hysterectomies, are unfortunate common aspects of hypothyroidism; and breast disease. Too little thyroid production may cause increased prolactin levels and persistent estrogen stimulation.

Prolactin is the hormone that stimulates the production of breast milk levels rises normally during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Hyperprolactinaemia is the most common disturbance of the pituitary gland. Malfunction of this gland producing high prolactin levels causes irregularity of your menstruation, most commonly lighter and less frequent. It can be a cause of stopping your menstruation altogether and you

may find that you are producing milk from your breasts when you are not pregnant.

Get The Point! Your thyroid may not be working at its optimum if you are experiencing some of the symptoms mentioned above. Make a commitment to create more energy for your future and witness renewed health and vigor by making an appointment so we can show you the way to boost the health of your thyroid.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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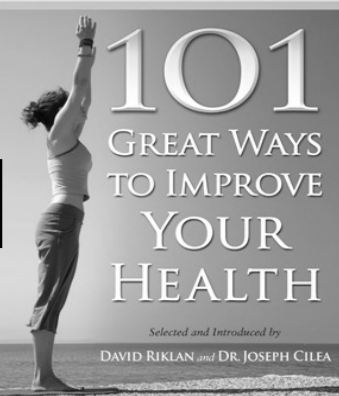
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Slumping crude oil prices drag stock market lower



By SARA LEPRO,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Falling oil prices are becoming another sign of investors' deflating hopes for a speedy economic recovery.

Major stock indexes skidded 2 percent Tuesday as crude fell for the fifth straight day.

Falling oil can help the economy by reducing costs, but investors are looking to the latest slide as an unwelcome prediction that demand for energy and basic materials will remain weak as the recession lingers. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 161 points to its lowest close since late April.

Trading volume remained light amid a dearth of news about the economy this week and as investors await the beginning of the second-quarter earnings season, which starts Wednesday with Alcoa Inc. but won't pick up speed until next week.

Stocks have drifted lower in recent days as the market's confidence about the economy took hits from a poor jobs report for June, waning consumer confidence and plunging commodities prices. That stoked fears that the market might have gotten ahead of itself in March and April, when investors sent stocks soaring in hopes

that a nearly two-year-long recession will end some time this year. The next guideposts for the market will be the forecasts companies give during earnings reports about how business conditions look for the rest of the year.

"Uncertainty has crept back into the picture," said Carl Beck, partner at Harris Financial Group. "We started to get some data that put a damper on some of the optimism that had been growing about the economic recovery and that sort of put everything on hold until we start hearing from companies."

The Dow fell 161.27, or 1.9 percent, to 8,163.60. It was the lowest finish for the blue chips since April 28.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 17.69, or 2 percent, to 881.03, its lowest finish since May 1. The Nasdaq composite index lost 41.23, or 2.3 percent, to 1,746.17, the lowest close since May 27.

Stocks ended mixed on Monday after all the major indexes posted losses last week. The Dow and the S&P 500 have shed about 7 percent since their recent highs on

June 12. The Dow is still up 25 percent from a 12-year low hit on March 9 and the S&P 500 index is up 30.2 percent.

Oil tumbled from an eight-month high hit last week on concerns that a weak economy will dampen demand for energy.

Light, sweet crude fell \$1.12 to settle at \$62.93 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, helping to send Exxon Mobil Corp. down \$1.54, or 2.3 percent, to \$66.56, while ConocoPhillips lost 84 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$39.99.

Doreen Mogavero, president of brokerage Mogavero, Lee & Co., said light trading volume meant many investors were standing on the sidelines. She said discussions in Washington and on trading desks about the potential for more government stimulus spending was unnerving.

"Once you start saying this is something we might have to do again, that says it's not working and that's not good," she said.

Disappointing economic news over the last few weeks, culminating in Thursday's

worse-than-expected jobs report for June, has undermined investors' belief that the economy would rebound significantly.

Investors are already on edge with corporate results due. Analysts say expectations are still relatively low, so companies could do better than what the market has forecast. At the same time, companies have cut costs dramatically in recent months, which could boost profits.

"Over the next few weeks, we'll get a real sense for whether there are reasons to be optimistic about the business outlook during the second half of 2009," said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial.

Despite the overall weakness in the market Tuesday, there was some buying of health care stocks after an analyst said the White House had signaled it would be open to negotiation on a public insurance option in its drive to reform health care, which would benefit managed-care companies.

Aetna Inc. jumped more than 6 percent, adding \$1.53 to \$25.94. Cigna Corp. rose more than 7 percent, gaining \$1.77 to \$25.24.

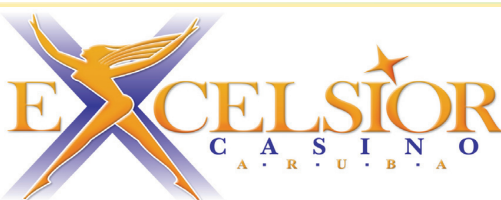
Declining issues outnumbered advancers by more than three to one on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a low 1.1 billion shares and was essentially flat with Monday. Light volume can exaggerate market movements.

Bond prices were mostly higher as investors looked for safety.

Results from an auction of \$35 billion in three-year notes were mixed but demand was decent.

Investors have been worried in recent weeks that the government may have to raise interest rates to entice buyers as it issues massive amounts of debt to fund its stimulus programs. So far though, auctions have been going relatively smoothly.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.46 percent from 3.51 percent late Monday. □



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SEC alleges oil-and-gas Ponzi scheme

By **JOHN McFARLAND**,
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Federal regulators have frozen the assets of a Delaware company accused of swindling nearly 8,000 investors in a \$485 million Ponzi scheme that falsely promised hefty returns on investments in the oil and gas business, officials said Tuesday.

Three businessmen in Dallas, where Provident Royalties LLC has its main office, ran the nationwide operation involving fraudulent securities offerings between June 2006 and January 2009, the Securities and Exchange Commission alleged in civil complaint filed in a North Texas federal court.

"Provident sold ostensibly safe securities such as preferred stock to thousands of investors," Ken Israel, Director of the SEC's Salt Lake Regional Office, said in a statement. "But it was actually operating a Ponzi-like shell game in which assets were shuttled from one entity to another and investors were paid 'returns' from whatever money was available — usually that of the most recent investors." Phone messages left with Provident, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection June 22, were not returned Tuesday. According to the SEC's complaint, Provident promised yearly returns of up to 18 percent and made fraudulent securities

offerings through 21 affiliated entities to more than 7,700 investors. The SEC claims Provident said 85 percent of funds raised through the offerings would go toward interests in oil and gas real estate, leases, mineral rights exploration and development. But the SEC said less than half of that money was actually used for that purpose. Investments in the scheme were typically between \$25,000 and \$250,000, with a few over \$1 million, said Tom Melton, a senior regional trial counsel with the SEC. "It's big, but it was a lot of

little people who got taken," Melton said. The order to freeze the assets and to place Provident in receivership was approved last week and unsealed Tuesday. It's still too early in the investigation to tell how much money's left, and Melton said it could take up to a year to sort it all out. The SEC complaint names three co-founders and managers of Provident, Paul R. Melbye, Brendan Coughlin and Henry Harrison; Provident; broker-dealer Provident Asset Management LLC; and 21 other entities that offered and sold securities. Messages at Melbye's and

Coughlin's home numbers weren't returned, and Harrison's is unlisted. Melton said all three founders and managers of Provident wound up with some of the invested funds, but it's unclear how much. Coughlin, 43, and Harrison, 44, each took about \$6 million, he said. He said Melbye, 44, took an undetermined amount. The SEC complaint charges the defendants with violating anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws. FBI Special Agent Mark White in the Dallas office would not confirm whether a criminal investigation was under way. □

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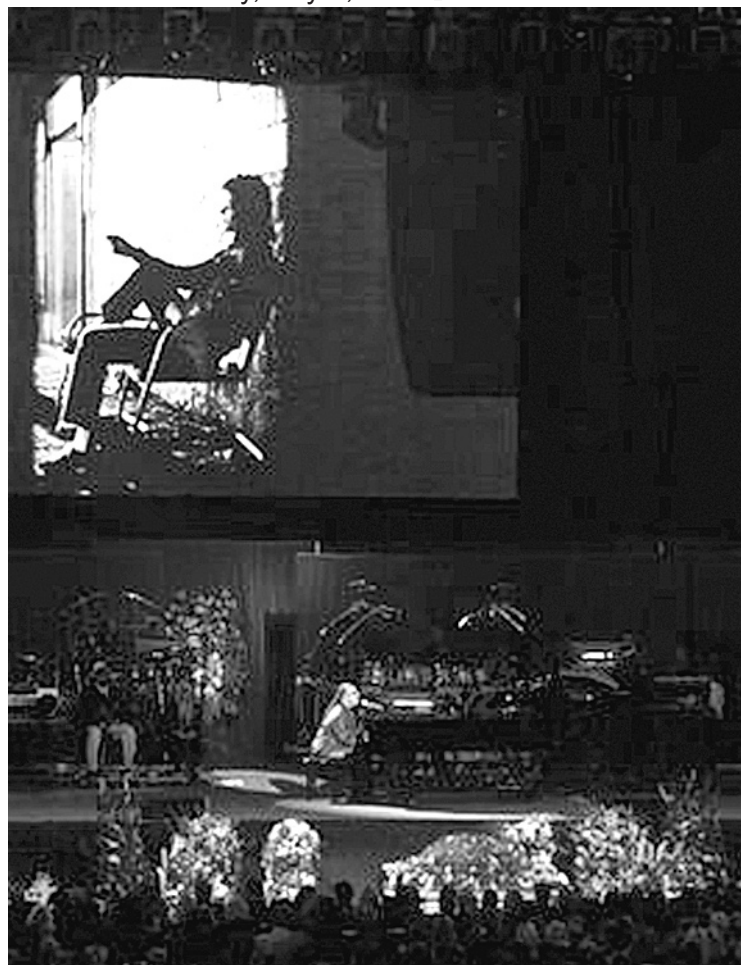
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Singer Stevie Wonder performs at Michael Jackson's memorial service at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

By JESSE WASHINGTON,
AP National Writer
LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson was eulogized in words and song Tuesday by an all-star list of musicians, athletes and other celebrities during a mournful ceremony in downtown Los Angeles, with the most poignant moment delivered by his sobbing 11-year-old daughter.



Prince Michael Jackson II center, youngest son of Michael Jackson, joins his brother and sister, Prince Michael and Paris Katherine, behind him, on stage at a public memorial service for the late King of Pop, held at Staples Center on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 in Los Angeles. Jackson, 50, the iconic pop star, died at UCLA Medical Center after going into cardiac arrest at his rented home on June 25 in Los Angeles, California.

(AP Photo by Kevork Djansezian, pool)

(AP Photo/Paul Buck, Pool)



Michael Jackson's daughter, Paris Michael Katherine, becomes emotional as she speaks at her father's memorial service at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, July 7, 2009. Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder and Usher led an emotional public memorial for Michael Jackson on Tuesday as the music world, the Jackson family and thousands of fans bade farewell to the "King of Pop."

REUTERS/Gabriel Bouys/Pool (UNITED STATES ENTERTAINMENT IMAGES OF THE DAY OBITUARY)
I was born, Daddy has been the best father you can ever imagine. And I just wanted to say I love him so much," Paris-Michael Jackson said before almost collapsing in the arms of her aunt Janet Jackson. Watched by millions around the world, the memorial struck a tone more spiritual

Jackson's public memorial



Marlon Jackson speaks on stage with the Jackson family during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, Pool)

than spectacular Tuesday, opening with a church choir serenading his golden casket and continuing with somber speeches and gospel-infused musical performances.

The Rev. Lucious W. Smith of the Friendship Baptist Church in Pasadena gave the greeting on the same stage where Jackson had been rehearsing for a concert series in the days before his June 25 death at age 50. Then Mariah Carey sang the opening performance with a sweet rendition of the Jackson 5 ballad "I'll Be There," a duet with Trey Lorenz.

"We come together and we remember the time," said Smith, riffing on one of Jackson's lyrics. "As long as we remember him, he will always be there to comfort us."

Millions of fans around the world gathered at odd hours to watch the ceremony, which was broadcast by the major TV networks and cable channels from Tokyo to Paris to New York and streamed everywhere online in one of the biggest celebrity send-offs ever seen.

Among those who saluted Jackson were Motown music mogul Berry Gordy Jr., Brooke Shields, the Rev. Al Sharpton and basketball greats Magic Johnson and Kobe Bryant. Jennifer Hudson sang Jackson's hit "Will You Be There" and John Mayer

played guitar on a whisper-light rendition of "Human Nature."

"This is a moment that I wished I didn't live to see," Stevie Wonder said before his performance. Usher broke down in tears after singing "Gone Too Soon."

Although the event was billed as a celebration, some speakers took the occasion to come to the defense of Jackson, whose life was marked as much by criticism and scorn as scintillating talent.

Gordy said that despite what he called "some sad times and maybe some questionable decisions on his part," the title King of Pop wasn't good enough for Jackson. "I think he is simply the greatest entertainer that ever lived," Gordy said.

Emotions rose when Sharpton delivered a fiery eulogy highlighting all the barriers Jackson broke and the troubles he faced. "Every time he got knocked down, he got back up," Sharpton said, and the applauding crowd jumped to its feet.

Sharpton rode the moment, building to a crescendo. "There wasn't nothing strange about your daddy," he said later, addressing Jackson's three children in the front row. "It was strange what your



a Toya Jackson (R) and Janet Jackson (L), sisters of Michael Jackson, stand onstage with his children, Paris Katherine Jackson (2nd L) and Prince Michael Jackson II, during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, July 7, 2009. Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder and Usher led an emotional public memorial for Michael Jackson on Tuesday as the music world, the Jackson family and thousands of fans bade farewell to the "King of Pop."

REUTERS/Mark J. Terrill/Pool (UNITED STATES ENTERTAINMENT OBITUARY)

daddy had to deal with!" After he left the stage, chants of "Mi-chael! Mi-chael!" filled the arena.

The ceremony wrapped up with group performances of "We Are the World" and "Heal the World" sung by Lionel Richie, Hudson and Jackson family members — including his children — before a backdrop

strikes a spiritual note



Musician Lionel Richie performs during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, July 7, 2009. A Gospel choir singing "We're going to see the king" launched an emotional public memorial for Michael Jackson on Tuesday as the music world and thousands of fans bade farewell to the singer known as the "King of Pop."

REUTERS/Kevin Mazur/Handout

of symbols of religions from around the world. They were joined onstage by children in white and several other people who had participated in the ceremony. Then members of Jackson's family took the stage to thank the crowd and share their own thoughts, barely able to hide their emotion as they hugged in the ceremony's final moments.

An estimated 20,000 people were in the Staples Center as Jackson's flower-draped casket was brought to the venue in a motorcade under law enforcement escort. Those who gathered constituted a visual representation of

Jackson's life: black, white and everything in between, wearing fedoras and African headdresses, sequins and surgical masks.

Fans with a ticket wore gold wristbands and picked up a metallic gold program guide on their way in. Acting as pallbearers, Jackson's brothers each wore a gold necktie and, in a touch borrowed from their brother, a single spangly white glove and sunglasses.

Brother Jermaine Jackson took the stage and sang the standard "Smile" as he fought back tears.

Jackson's hearse had been part of a motorcade that smoothly



whisked his body 10 miles across closed freeways from a private service at a Hollywood Hills cemetery to his public memorial and awaiting fans. The traffic snarls and logistical nightmares that had been feared by police and city officials did not materialize. Traffic was actually considered by police to be lighter than normal.

"I think people got the message to stay home," said California Highway Patrol Officer Miguel Luevano.

Deputy Police Chief Sergio Diaz, operations chief for the event, said authorities had expected a crowd of 250,000. Besides reporters and those with tickets to the memorial service, the crowd around the Staples Center perimeter numbered only about 1,000, he said.

Outside the Staples Center, Claudia Hernandez, 29, said she loved Jackson's music as a girl growing up in Mexico. Now a day-care teaching assistant in Los Angeles, Hernandez said she cried watching TV coverage of his



Singer Smokey Robinson eulogizes during Michael Jackson's public memorial service held at Staples Center in Los Angeles July 7, 2009. Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder and Usher led an emotional public memorial for Michael Jackson on Tuesday as the music world, the Jackson family and thousands of fans bade farewell to the "King of Pop."

REUTERS/Kevin Mazur/Handout

death.

"I'm trying to hold in my emotions," said Hernandez, wearing a wristband to allow her admittance to the service and holding a framed photograph of Jackson. "I know right now he's teaching the angels to dance."

More than 1.6 million people registered for the lottery for free tickets to Jackson's memorial. A total of 8,750 were chosen to receive two tickets each.

"There are certain people in our popular culture that just capture people's imaginations. And in death, they become even larger," President Barack Obama told CBS while in Moscow. "Now, I have to admit that it's also fed by a 24/7 media that is insatiable." The city of Los Angeles set up a Web site Tuesday to allow fans to contribute money to help the city pay for his Staples Center memorial

service. Mayoral spokesman Matt Szabo estimated the service will cost \$1.5 million to \$4 million.

It was not clear what will happen to Jackson's body. The Forest Lawn Memorial Park Hollywood Hills cemetery is the final resting place for such stars as Bette Davis, Andy Gibb, Freddie Prinze, Liberace and recently deceased David Carradine and Ed McMahon. Jermaine Jackson has expressed a desire to have him buried someday at Neverland, his estate in Southern California.

Midway during the memorial service, police Officer April Harding told the media gathered at the gates of Forest Lawn to disperse. Asked if Jackson's body was going to be returned to the cemetery after the memorial, she replied: "His body is not going to be returned here." She did not say where it would be taken. □



The Andrae Crouch singers, along with the Jackson family and guests sing 'Heal the World' during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

(AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, Pool)



Recording artist and actress Jennifer Hudson (C) performs at the Michael Jackson memorial service at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, July 7, 2009. Mariah Carey, Stevie Wonder and Usher led an emotional public memorial for Michael Jackson on Tuesday as the music world, the Jackson family and thousands of fans bade farewell to the "King of Pop."

REUTERS/Paul Buck/Pool (UNITED STATES ENTERTAINMENT OBITUARY)

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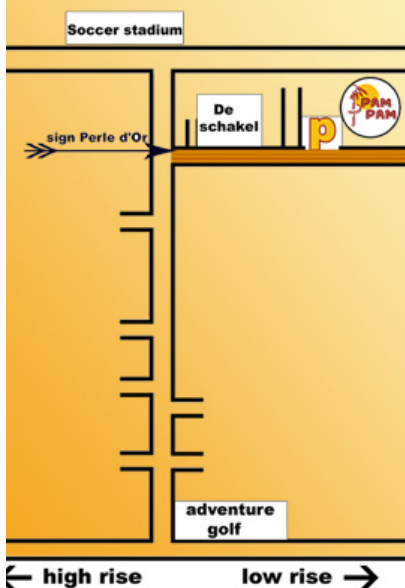
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Obama asks Russians to forge partnership with U.S.

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Working to turn Russia from antagonist to ally, President Barack Obama asked the Russian people Tuesday to “forge a lasting partnership” with the U.S., but he acknowledged after talks with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin that on divisive issues there won’t be “a meeting of the minds anytime soon.”

Obama was wrapping up a two-day stay in Russia, during which he and President Dmitry Medvedev said they were determined by year’s end to negotiate a new nuclear arms treaty that would slash both country’s arsenals by about one-third.

After breakfast at Putin’s country home, Obama sped back to central Moscow to tell the graduating class of the prestigious New Economic School that the U.S. and Russia were not “destined to be antagonists.”

Throughout his young presidency, Obama has hewed to a singular message about U.S.-Russian relations, insisting that both nations must get beyond the kind of thinking that gripped Moscow and Washington during the decades of the Cold War. He reprised that in his graduation speech.

“It is difficult to forge a lasting partnership between former adversaries,” Obama said. “But I believe on the fundamental issues that will shape this century, Americans and Russians share common interests that form a basis for cooperation.”

Before leaving for Russia, Obama had said that Putin had “one foot in the old ways of doing business and one foot in the new.” After breakfast with the Russian leader, he



President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin during a meeting at Novo Ogaryovo, Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in Moscow.

Associated Press

told Fox News Channel: “I found him to be tough, smart, shrewd, very unsentimental, very pragmatic. And on areas where we disagree, like Georgia, I don’t anticipate a meeting of the minds anytime soon.”

Putin, the former Russian president, also spoke warmly of his country’s hopes for improved U.S. ties with Obama in the White House. “With you we link all our hopes for the furtherance of relations between our two countries,” the former KGB official said, sitting next to Obama.

The White House had been hoping to reach a broader Russian audience with Obama’s speech, but the address was not widely available on television. It was carried live on the 24-hour news channel Vesti, but not on any of the main, more widely watched Russian outlets such as First Channel, Rossiya, or

NTV.

Obama used his speech to further define his view of the United States’ place in the world and, specifically, to argue that the U.S. shares compelling interests with Russia.

“Let me be clear: America wants a strong, peaceful and prosperous Russia,” he declared.

His upbeat comments showed Obama’s determination to turn around public opinion in Russia, where polls show people are wary of the United States and take a skeptical view of Obama himself. He said Russian and U.S. interests largely overlap in halting the spread of nuclear weapons, confronting violent extremists, ensuring economic prosperity, advancing the rights of people and fostering cooperation without jeopardizing sovereignty.

Continued on Next Page

Gay marriage bill takes effect in nation’s capital



By GILLIAN GAYNAIR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A law recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries went into effect Tuesday in the nation’s capital, and a D.C. councilman said he plans to follow up with a measure that would allow gay marriage ceremonies in the district.

The bill was approved in a 12-1 vote by the D.C. Council in May. Congress, which has the final say over the city’s laws, had 30 days to review the legislation. Since it took no action, the bill automatically became law.

Continued on Page B3



In this photo released by Mehr News Agency, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, Saturday July 4, 2009.

Associated Press

Iran president declares new era for country

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Tuesday sought to put the turmoil over the disputed presidential elections behind him and declared on national television that the contests were clean, fair and marked the start of a new era.

Continued on Page B6



U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, right, gesture as they leave Manezh Exhibition Hall during the Parallel Business Summit in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Associated Press

FORGE PARTNERSHIP

Continued from Page B1

But he also sprinkled in challenges to Russia, particularly in the area of

democracy. U.S. officials are wary of Russia's increasingly hard-line stand on dissent.

"By no means is America perfect," Obama said. But he

also said: "Independent media have exposed corruption at all levels of business and government. Competitive elections allow us to change

course. ... If our democracy did not advance those rights, I as a person of African ancestry wouldn't be able to address you as an American citizen, much less a president."

Obama said the U.S. will not try to impose any kind of governing system on another country. But he argued for democratic values "because they are moral, and also because they work."

On Georgia and Ukraine — two nations that have sought NATO membership to the chagrin of neighboring Russia — Obama tried a diplomatic touch. He defended the steps nations must take to join the alliance, adding, "NATO seeks collaboration with Russia, not confrontation."

The White House described the session positively, on the whole.

Both sides agreed to try to be better listeners and pay more attention to how each side is looking at the same issues, said one senior administration

official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the private meeting that was described as "very candid."

Before the speech Obama held what the White House characterized as a "good meeting" with former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The U.S. leader, accompanied by Medvedev, also met with U.S. and Russian business leaders. Obama also met with a diverse collection of nongovernment leaders from both countries — health experts, environmentalists, reporters, human rights advocates — who held their own summit to re-engage engage bilateral cooperation. Obama also met with Russian opposition leaders.

On Wednesday he heads to a G-8 summit in Italy. While there he will meet Pope Benedict XVI, before moving on to Ghana where he plans to deliver what the White House describes as a major foreign policy speech. □

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GAY MARRIAGE

Continued from Page B1

"I certainly believe that the fact that we got here is a great victory, that we survived the congressional layover period," said D.C. Council member David Catania, who is fine-tuning a bill that would allow gay marriages to be performed in Washington. He said he intends to introduce the measure between September and the end of the year.

For 29-year-old D.C. resident Julie Verratti, the city's new gay marriage recognition law marks an important transition for same-sex couples.

"It feels good," said Verratti, a law student who married her partner last year in California. "It's a step in the right direction."

Under the law, gay and lesbian couples married in other jurisdictions are afforded the same benefits and rights as other married people under D.C. law. The law recognizes legal, same-sex nuptials in other countries as well as an estimated 18,000



Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., left, with his wife Franni holding the bible, takes his oath of office during a ceremonial swearing-in by Vice President Joe Biden on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in Washington.

Associated Press

such marriages that took place in California — such as Verratti's — before voters there approved a gay marriage ban in November.

Six states — Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire — currently allow same-sex marriage. New York recognizes gay marriages performed in other states. During the congressional review period, some opponents of the D.C. legislation sought a referendum on the matter. The effort was spearheaded by Bishop Harry Jackson, who leads a church in Beltsville, Md., and charged that the D.C. Council sneaked the bill through without any public input.

The D.C. elections board ultimately rejected the

proposal, saying that a referendum could authorize discrimination based on sexual orientation, which is prohibited under D.C.'s Human Rights Act.

Jackson and other opponents later filed a lawsuit against the city challenging the elections board decision and seeking a stay on the bill's implementation. The suit was dismissed last month.

Jackson said the decision hasn't discouraged him and he plans to continue his fight against same-sex marriage in D.C. He said Tuesday that he and his supporters are seeking a voter initiative that would affirm marriage between a man and a woman in D.C.

"We're going to focus on getting the whole issue before the people," he said. □

Federal Web sites knocked out by cyber attack

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A widespread and unusually resilient computer attack that began July 4 knocked out the Web sites of several government agencies, including some that are responsible for fighting cyber crime, The Associated Press has learned.

The Treasury Department, Secret Service, Federal Trade Commission and Transportation Department Web sites were all down at varying points over the holiday weekend and into this week, according to officials inside and outside the government. Some of the sites were still experiencing problems Tuesday evening.

Federal government officials refused to publicly discuss any details of the cyber attack, and would only generally acknowledge that it occurred. It was not clear whether other government sites also were attacked.

Others familiar with the outage, which is called a denial of service attack, said that the fact that the government Web sites were still being affected three days after it began signaled an unusually lengthy and sophisticated attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the matter.

The Homeland Security Department confirmed that officials had received reports of "malicious Web activity" and they were investigating the matter, but had no further comment. Two government officials acknowledged that the Treasury and Secret Service sites were brought down, and said the agencies were working with their Internet service provider to resolve the problem.

Ben Rushlo, director of Internet technologies at Keynote Systems, called it a "massive outage" and said problems with the Transportation Department site began Saturday and continued until Monday, while the FTC site was down Sunday and Monday.

Keynote Systems is a mobile and Web site monitoring company. The company publishes data detailing outages on Web sites, including 40 government sites it watches.

According to Rushlo, the Transportation Web site was "100 percent down" for two days, so that no Internet users could get through to it. The FTC site, meanwhile, started to come back online late Sunday, but even on Tuesday Internet users still were unable to get to the site 70 percent of the time.

"This is very strange. You don't see this," he said. "Having something 100 percent down for a 24-hour-plus period is a pretty significant event." □

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Sarah Palin: Politically speaking, 'If I die, I die.'

DAN JOLING

Associated Press Writer

KOTZEBUE, Alaska (AP)

— Sarah Palin says she's not a quitter, she's a fighter, but adds that, politically speaking, "if I die, I die. So be it."

Sporting fishing waders and a pony tail, Palin defended her decision to resign as Alaska governor in half a dozen interviews broadcast and published Tuesday morning. The former vice presidential candidate invited media outlets to Dillingham, an Alaska town of about 2,500, where she was fishing with her husband, Todd, and children. Palin, the Republican vice presidential candidate last year, wouldn't rule out a 2012 presidential run, and told CNN that "all options are on the table" for her future. "I don't know what doors will be open or closed by then," the Republican told Time magazine. "I was telling Todd today, I was saying, 'Man, I wish we could predict the next fish run so that we know when to be out on the water.' We can't predict the next fish run, much less what's going to happen in 2012."

But she told ABC television that she recognizes she might not have political staying power



- In this Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008 file picture, Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks to supporters during a rally in Des Moines, Iowa. Social conservatives in Iowa and New Hampshire already were reeling from the scandals that enveloped two politicians, thought to be considering White House runs when Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin shocked the party by announcing her resignation.

after her surprise resignation Friday, which came just as she had been expected to elevate her national profile ahead of a possible 2012 Republican presidential run.

"I said before ... 'You know, politically speaking, if I die, I

die. So be it,'" she said.

"I'm not going to take the comfortable path. I'm going to take the right path for the state," she said of her resignation, which she characterized as a matter of progressing in an unconventional way.

"That caught people off guard. ... It's out of the box and unconventional. That's what we are as Alaskans and certainly how I am as a public servant." Palin criticized President Barack Obama, a possible sign she's looking toward the 2012 presidential race.

"President Obama is growing government outrageously,

and it's immoral and it's uneconomic, his plan that he tries to sell America," Palin told Time. "His plan to 'put America on the right track' economically, incurring the debt that our nation is incurring, trillions of dollars that we're passing on to our kids, expecting them to pay off for us, is immoral and doesn't even make economic sense."

Palin has become a lightning rod for partisan politics in Alaska since her return after Republican Sen. John McCain selected her as his running mate in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency last year.

Palin has racked up an estimated \$500,000 in legal bills defending the flurry of ethics complaints, including one filed Monday that alleges she is violating ethics law by taking per diem payments when she stays in her Wasilla home instead of the governor's mansion in Juneau. In addition, her relationship with Democrats in the state Senate — once among the Republican governor's staunchest allies — deteriorated in the last session. The outgoing Alaska governor told the Anchorage Daily News she stepped down because ethics complaints against her and her squabble with lawmakers would have paralyzed the 18 months she had left in office.

"Especially when all these lawmakers are lining up for office," she said. "Their desire would be to clobber the administration left and right so that they can position themselves for office. I'm not going to put Alaskans through that."

She told the paper she believes her replacement, Lt. Gov. Sean Parnell, who will take office on July 26, will diffuse the controversy that surrounds her. "With Sean in the governor's seat, it won't be the politics of personal destruction, I don't believe," Palin said.

She added she wasn't sure what her next step would be.

"I can't predict the next fish run much less what's going to happen in a few years," she told the Daily News. "I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm going to keep working hard for Alaska."

Palin has spent the past four days with her family, but she returned to work as Alaska governor Tuesday in a remote fishing village 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

Palin was scheduled to appear in Kotzebue to sign a bill designed to bring public safety officers to small towns. Kotzebue, a town of about 3,000 people, is 550 miles northwest of Anchorage and lies on a spit of sand at the end of a peninsula.

There has been speculation that she has some legal issue that is not yet known to the public. But her lawyer told The Associated Press on Monday that she has no legal problems whatsoever, and simply is tired of the hostile political climate, legal bills and other distractions. □

Associated Press

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Police: SC killer should have been behind bars

By MEG KINNARD and
MITCH WEISS

Associated Press Writers

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina serial killer who terrorized a small community was well-known to authorities as a bully, so intimidating that a scared elderly man once refused to testify against him and extortion charges were thrown out.

The career criminal, Patrick Burris, had repeated run-ins with police for stealing and writing bad checks, and authorities said Tuesday they weren't surprised his crimes escalated.

They said Burris, paroled in April after serving eight years in a North Carolina prison, should have never been released.

Burris, 41, shot five people to death in a 10-mile area of rural Gaffney in the span of six days last week. He was fatally shot Monday by officers investigating a burglary complaint at a home in

Gastonia, N.C., 30 miles from where the killing spree started. Ballistics from a gun found with Burris linked him to the South Carolina slayings.

"He always had a violent streak," Rockingham County Sheriff Sam Page said. "He was very intimidating and very threatening from his appearance: He was at least 6-5 and 250 pounds. You didn't want to mess with him."

It's unclear why Burris began his killing spree. Police were still piecing together details of his life. Records show he had lived in Rockingham County, N.C., a rural county near the Virginia border, since the late 1980s, but he also spent a lot of time behind bars.

He was arrested more than 30 times in North Carolina alone — the first time in 1989 for blackmail. He also had convictions in Florida, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

Most of his convictions in North Carolina involved

stealing from homes and businesses and bad checks, records show.

But those cases don't reveal his true character, Page said.

In 1996, Page, then a detective at the Eden Police Department in north-central North Carolina, arrested Burris for extortion. He was accused of forcing an elderly man to write a check and cash it at the bank. But the charges were dropped when the man refused to testify.

"He intimidated that man. He was scared. There was no way he was going to testify," Page said.

In another case, Burris was charged with robbery and assault in 2000 in Eden, but those charges were dropped when the man "backed out and refused to show up for court," Eden Police Chief Reece Pyrtle Jr. said.

"You didn't want to cross him," Pyrtle said. "He had that scowl."

South Carolina Law

Enforcement Division Chief Reggie Lloyd, a former judge and federal prosecutor, said more should be done to keep habitual offenders like Burris behind bars.

"At some point, either prosecutors or judges did not believe that it warranted more time. ... Our entire system has really got to get serious about how we deal with these types of offenders," Lloyd said.

North Carolina Corrections Department officials were actually looking for Burris when he was shot because he had violated his parole. Page said authorities did everything they could.

"Every officer along the way did his job," he said. "But we have 37,000 prisoners committed to prison in North Carolina and when those prisons get full, our jails start backing up. I run a jail. I know they can't put everyone in jail. They have alternative programs to incarceration. But there are some that just need to be in jail — and this is one who just needed to be in jail."

The Gaffney killings began when peach farmer Kline Cash, 63, was killed June 27. Four days later, 83-year-old Hazel Linder and her daughter, 50-year-old Gena Linder Parker, were found bound and shot in the older woman's home. The next day, Stephen Tyler and his 15-year-old daughter Abby were found shot in their family's furniture store.

The investigation isn't over. Gaffney police chief Richard Turner said they were tracing the suspect's activities and try to figure out if he has killed others.



This undated photo released by Cherokee County Law Enforcement officials shows a mug shot of Patrick Tracy Burris.

Associated Press

"We are all asking why? Why here? Why these individuals? Why these victims?" Turner said. "That's something that this guy took with him to his grave."

A former FBI profiler said it would be tough question to answer.

"This guy has got victims ranging from 15 to 83, he's got males, he's got females," said Mark Safarik, who retired in 2007 as a senior profiler in the FBI's famed Behavioral Analysis Unit. "I don't think that he had the motivation of a serial killer. ... How he got access to them and what the engagement was with these victims would go a long way to tell you what this dynamic is."

Burris' death relieved many area residents who have been armed and on edge. Business owners finally unlocked their doors Tuesday, but many still kept their weapons close.

"I still have my pistol under the counter, and I'll keep it right here," said Matthew McDonald, owner of Bookshelf Florist, as he lifted his small .38 handgun into view. □

Official: LA detective from King trial kills self

By SUE MANNING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A veteran Los Angeles police detective who testified at the Rodney King trial killed herself after walking into the lobby of a suburban sheriff's station, authorities said Tuesday.

Susan Clemmer, 41, was a gang narcotics officer who worked for the department for nearly 20 years, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. She was unmarried.

"She walked in with a box of personal items and placed it on the counter," Whitmore said. He declined to describe the items because they are part of the investigation into the 9 p.m. Monday shooting at the Santa Clarita station, about 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. .

A pregnant deputy tried to help Clemmer before the shooting, but Clemmer wouldn't talk to her, Whitmore said. A male deputy did have a conversation with Clemmer.

"He was concerned about how she was behaving," Whitmore said. "The deputy left the lobby and heard a single gunshot."

The deputy returned and discovered the body of the detective, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

No other deputies were hurt, and no other shots were fired, Whitmore said.

Clemmer, among the first witnesses to testify in the King trial, rode in the ambulance with King after his beating on March 3, 1991. She testified he was laughing and spitting blood on her uniform, and that she heard him cursing at officers after the beating. □



In this photo released by an official web site of the Iranian supreme leader's office, Iranians chant slogans during their meeting with supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a ceremony to commemorate a revered Shiite saint, in Tehran, Iran, Monday, July 6, 2009. Iran's supreme leader warned Western governments on Monday of a "negative impact" on relations due to what he called their meddling in Iran's post-election riots, state television reported.

Associated Press

NEW ERA

Continued from Page B1

His speech came as the country's top three reformist leaders sought to rekindle their opposition movement,

demanding that ruling clerics end the heavy "security atmosphere" imposed after the elections and free those detained in the unrest, according to an opposition Web site.

It was Ahmadinejad's first national speech since the supreme leader declared the election results valid despite outcry from the other candidates and weeks of street protests claiming that the results were fraudulent.

"This is a new beginning for Iran ... we have entered a new era," the president said, explaining that the 85 percent turnout and overwhelming win had given his government a new legitimacy.

"It was the most clean and free election in the world," he said, adding that during the re-count "no fault was discovered. The whole nation understood this."

"This election has doubled the dignity of the Iranian nation," he said.

During the half hour speech, Iranians in many parts of the capital Tehran could be heard shouting from their rooftops, "death to the dictator" and "God is great" — actions that have become a symbol of defiance since the elections.

Opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, who claims to have won the June 12 election, is struggling for a way to channel the widespread discontent since the vote but which has since been shattered by the harsh crackdown by police, Revolutionary Guards and Basij militia.

Mousavi hinted on Monday that he may move away from the tactic of protests and create a political party to work in what he called "a legal framework." Late Monday, he met with the other top stars of the reform movement — former president Mohammad Khatami and Mahdi Karroubi, another election candidate — in a show of unity.

The three warned Iran's clerical

leadership that if the security crackdown continues, it "will only lead to radicalization of political activities," Mousavi's Web site reported on Tuesday. But it is not clear how much margin the opposition will have for political action. Many of the top reform figures — including Khatami's former vice president and one-time members of his Cabinet — are in detention and could face charges of fomenting riots. Earlier this week, the head of the Revolutionary Guards warned that the elite force would take a major role in defending the country's system of clerical rule.

There was no sign of a let-up in the clampdown imposed since Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared the official election results valid and Ahmadinejad the victor.

Police say 20 people were killed in postelection violence and more than 1,000 arrested, though they say many have been released.

Authorities this week closed universities and dormitories, apparently because of Web site calls for new protests on Thursday, the anniversary of a 1999 attack by Basij and police on protesting students. It is unclear if anyone will attempt a march — not only because of the security measures but also because of heavy dust clouds and pollution hanging over the capital and other parts of the country the past two days, forcing the closure of government offices.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, meanwhile, demanded the release of a young French academic detained after taking photos of Iranian protests and accused of espionage.

Clotilde Reiss, 23, was arrested last week at Tehran's airport as she was about to leave Iran after a five-month stay during which she taught French at Isfahan University.

"These accusations of

espionage are high fantasy," Sarkozy said at a news conference Tuesday.

Iran's hard-line leaders have been trying to erase any lingering doubts about the legitimacy of Ahmadinejad's government by portraying the unrest as sparked by foreign meddling.

In his speech Tuesday, the president criticized his election rivals and accused them of working with Iran's enemies.

"Unfortunately, some people inside Iran collaborated with them. They repeated the remarks made by certain Western countries," Ahmadinejad said, as he accused the West of interfering in the country's politics.

"The result of their childish acts of interference in Iran's internal affairs is that the Iranian nation and government will enter the global stage several times more powerful," he said.

Also Tuesday, six U.N. human rights experts issued a statement expressing "grave concern about reports of killings, ongoing arrests, use of excessive police force and the ill-treatment of detainees." They questioned the legality of the arrests of journalists and demonstrators, who could face "arbitrary detentions."

Despite the regime's rhetoric, a number of top clerics have continued to question the election — a rare defiance of the supreme leader from the ranks of the religious establishment.

This week, a party close to one of the most politically powerful clerics — former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani — issued a statement rejecting Ahmadinejad's victory. It was one of the strongest hints yet on the powerful cleric's stance. He is the head of two major clerical ruling bodies and is a bitter enemy of Ahmadinejad, but has kept his distance from the postelection turmoil.

"Due to the unhealthy trend of the election, widespread irregularities and the support extended by a majority of Guardian Council members to a specific candidate, the result of this election is not acceptable," the Kargozaran party said in its statement, published on Mousavi's Web site. □

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	matinee: 12.20 2.20		
	late show: 8.15		

R	PUBLIC ENEMIES		NEW
	daily: 5.45 8.45		
	matinee: 12.05 2.50		
	late show: 11.30		

PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2		
	daily: 6.00 9.00		
	matinee: 12.00 2.50		
	late show: 11.50		

R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123		
	daily: 5.15 7.30 9.45		
	matinee: 12.40 3.05		
	late show: 12.00		

PG-13	YEAR ONE		
	daily: 5.50 8.00 10.05		
	matinee: 1.30 3.40		
	late show: 12.10		

PG	TERMINATOR SALVATION		
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PG-13	IMAGINE THAT		
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	matinee: 12.10 2.30		
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PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS		NEW
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Russian foreign minister warns U.S. over missile shield

STEVE GUTTERMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's foreign minister warned Tuesday that the U.S. would jeopardize progress toward a new treaty with Russia on nuclear arms cuts if it decides to create a global missile defense system.

Sergey Lavrov spoke a day after the Russian and U.S. presidents reached a preliminary agreement setting targets for further reductions of the world's largest offensive nuclear arsenals.

Lavrov's message was that Russia will not agree to the cuts — which both countries say they want to codify in a treaty before the existing START I agreement expires in December — if the U.S. fails to assuage Moscow's concerns over missile defense plans.

He said Russia had won agreement from the U.S. that the new treaty would acknowledge a link between offensive and defensive weapons.

"If our partners (the U.S.) make a decision to create an American missile defense system with global reach, then that will doubtless place a big question mark over the prospects for further reductions in strategic offensive weapons," he said.

Russia wants Obama to abandon the previous administration's plans to deploy missile defense facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Lavrov praised President Barack Obama for placing those plans under review and said he hoped the review would end with "an understanding of the counterproductivity of unilateral actions" on missile defense.

The planned START replacement pact calls for each side to reduce strategic warheads to a range of 1,500 to 1,675, and strategic delivery vehicles to a range of 500 to 1,100. Current limits allow 2,200 warheads and 1,600 delivery vehicles.

A limit at the low end of that range would be better for Russia, which is already well below the 1,100 figure.

"We favor the maximum possible limitations on delivery vehicles," Lavrov said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the agreement Tuesday, saying it would make "a significant contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament as well as nuclear nonproliferation" ahead of next year's Vienna conference of countries that signed the 1970 Treaty on the



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, center, takes part in a wreath laying ceremony to mark the day of Independence of Belarus at a war memorial outside Moscow's Kremlin wall on Friday, July 3, 2009.

Associated Press

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Lavrov also said an agreement allowing the U.S. to ship weapons to Afghanistan across Russian territory applies only

to shipments by air, not by land, and that it gives Russia the right to inspect the shipments. A senior U.S. official said the agreement allows for ground transit but that the U.S. does

not want it. Russia is already allowing the U.S. to ship non-lethal goods by land across its territory, and the U.S. has conducted such shipments by rail this year. □

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Honduras political rivals agree to accept mediation



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks to media after meeting privately with ousted Honduran President Manuel Zelaya at State Department in Washington on Tuesday July 7, 2009. Clinton said Costa Rican President Oscar Arias will serve as international mediator in the political crisis in Honduras since Zelaya was forced into exile on June 28. She said the de facto Honduran leader, Roberto Micheletti, agreed to the Arias role as mediator.

Associated Press

MATTHEW LEE
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

— Both sides in Honduras’

leadership crisis signaled
apparent willingness Tuesday
to forge a diplomatic solution
to the deadlock over the fate

of deposed President Manuel Zelaya, who was overthrown last month in a coup.

Zelaya and interim Honduran leader Roberto Micheletti agreed to accept Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, a Nobel Peace laureate, as an international mediator. Arias’ appointment also was backed by the United States and was announced by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton after she met privately with Zelaya at the State Department.

Arias will conduct the mediation in Costa Rica, where Zelaya intends to travel from Washington, and Clinton said she expected the process to begin soon.

“It is our hope that through this dialogue mechanism overseen by President Arias that there can be a restoration of democratic, constitutional order, a peaceful resolution of this matter that will enable the Honduran people to see the restoration of democracy and a more peaceful future going forward,” Clinton said.

Zelaya said he was pleased with Arias’ appointment. “I have accepted Dr. Arias’ mediation,” he told reporters after seeing Clinton. He added that the step showed “the international community is still supporting democracy in Honduras.”

Meanwhile, in Honduras, Micheletti, who had vowed not to negotiate until “things return to normal,” appeared to open some space for a settlement to the crisis that began on June 28 when Zelaya was detained by the military and forced into exile.

Arias “is a man with a lot of credibility in the world,” Micheletti told HRN radio. “We are open to dialogue. We want to be heard.”

He said he would send a delegation soon to Costa Rica, although he stressed that the meeting “doesn’t mean that

Zelaya will be allowed to return.” Still, his tone was less belligerent than in recent days, when officials promised to arrest Zelaya on charges including treason as soon as he had set foot on Honduran soil.

Micheletti did not repeat his earlier insistence that Zelaya’s return is not negotiable, though he did say that Zelaya broke the law. The new government has threatened to arrest Zelaya for 18 alleged criminal acts, including treason and failing to implement more than 80 laws approved by Honduran lawmakers since he took office in 2006.

In another hint that compromise might be worked out, a Honduran Supreme Court official said Tuesday that political amnesty for Zelaya is possible.

Clinton noted that Arias was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for helping broker an end to Central America’s civil wars.

“He is the natural person to assume this role,” she told reporters, adding that while the Obama administration continues to support efforts by the Organization of American States to resolve the crisis, she felt it was necessary also to name a specific mediator.

Clinton also urged all parties to refrain from further violence in an effort to resolve the political crisis and said she was “heartened” that Zelaya had agreed to Arias’ mediation and would not again try to force his way back to Honduras as he did during the weekend.

“I believe it is a better route for him to follow at this time than to attempt to return in the face of the implacable opposition of the de facto regime,” she said.

Zelaya, a wealthy rancher who moved to the left after his election and allied himself with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, made an

unsuccessful attempt to return home on Sunday in a move that sparked clashes between his supporters and security forces at the Tegucigalpa airport and left at least one person dead. Clinton would not discuss specifics of the mediation process, which she said would begin soon, but a senior U.S. official said one option being considered would be to forge a compromise under which Zelaya would be allowed to return and serve out his remaining six months in office with limited powers.

Zelaya, in return, would pledge to drop his aspirations for a constitutional change that might allow him to run for another term, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the diplomatic exchanges.

The Obama administration had offered only lukewarm support for Zelaya, aimed more at bolstering his legal status as Honduras’ duly elected president than supporting him personally.

Earlier Tuesday in Moscow, President Barack Obama said the United States was supporting the left-leaning politician who often criticized Washington on principle.

“America cannot and should not seek to impose any system of government on any other country, nor would we presume to choose which party or individual should run a country,” Obama said. “Even as we meet here today, America supports now the restoration of the democratically elected president of Honduras, even though he has strongly opposed American policies.”

“We do so not because we agree with him,” Obama said of Zelaya. “We do so because we respect the universal principle that people should choose their own leaders, whether they are leaders we agree with or not.” □

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Running of the bulls kicks off in Pamplona, 4 hurt

JORGE SAINZ

Associated Press Writer

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP)

— Thrill-seekers sprinted through Pamplona in a swift and relatively clean start to the running of the bulls.

No one was gored on Tuesday, but four people were hospitalized with bumps, bruises or scrapes, Spanish Red Cross spokesman Jose Aldaba said.

“I feared for my life. It was pretty intense,” said 23-year-old runner Mark Kowalski of Edmonton, Alberta.

The six fighting bulls and six bell-tinkling steers — meant to keep them in a tight pack — charged down the 930-yard course from a holding pen to the northern town’s bull ring.

Runners, wearing traditional white clothing and red kerchiefs around their necks, tripped over each other or fell after getting bumped by bulls

or steers, but apparently no one was seriously trampled. One man went down about midcourse and half a dozen animals raced over him, but he was able later to get up and walk away.

At another point, a bull slipped and fell on the cobblestone street and landed atop a runner. Some of the daredevils rested their hands on the bulls, a gesture considered disrespectful to the animals.

People came from all over the world to test their bravery and enjoy nonstop street parties.

Spanish Television said about 2,000 people took part in the first of eight runs at the famed San Fermin festival, made famous by Ernest Hemingway’s novel “The Sun Also Rises.”

Tuesday’s run lasted about 2 minutes and 30 seconds, which is quick for San



Revelers are chased by Alcurrucen ranch fighting bulls on the first day of the running of the bulls during the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, Tuesday, July 7, 2009. Thrillseekers sprinted through Pamplona in a swift and relatively clean start to the running of the bulls. No one was gored on Tuesday, but four people were hospitalized with bumps, bruises or scrapes, Spanish Red Cross spokesman Jose Aldaba said.

Associated Press

Fermin runs.

“It was incredible,” said Victor Gaona, a 26-year-old from Mexico. “I saw a bull fall in front of me, and it is an unforgettable experience.”

Fourteen people have died at San Fermin since record-keeping began in 1924. The last fatal goring was in 1995. The victim was Matthew Tassio, a 22-year-

old American.

In 2003, Pamplona native Fermin Etxeberri, 63, was trampled in the head by a bull and died after spending months in a coma. □



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This is a May 19, 2008 file photo showing Kentucky Derby-winning trainer Rick Dutrow Jr., looking out from the stakes barn at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Trainer Dutrow suspended for drug violation

JEFFREY McMURRAY

Associated Press Writer

LEXINGTON, Kentucky (AP) — Kentucky Derby- and Preakness Stakes-winning trainer Rick Dutrow was suspended for 30 days on Tuesday for violating doping rules more than a year ago. The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission issued the suspension after tests revealed that Salute the Count had an excessive amount of Clenbuterol in his blood after finishing second in a race at Churchill Downs the day before he won the May 2008 Kentucky Derby with Big Brown.

Clenbuterol allows horses to breathe easier while exercising. It's only legal at low dosages.

Besides imposing the 30-day suspension, the KHRC ordered Dutrow to return the purse money won by the horse. In a rare split vote, the commission voted 6-5 to suspend Dutrow for 30 days moments after voting 6-5 against approving the 15-day ban proposed by both the stewards at Churchill and an officer who heard Dutrow's appeal. □



The Astana team riders with American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong rear center, and Alberto Contador of Spain, front left, react on the podium after winning the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, a team time-trial over 24.2 miles with start and finish in Montpellier, southern France, Tuesday July 7, 2009. Armstrong and overall leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland now have the same time in the overall standings but Cancellara retains the yellow jersey.

Associated Press

Armstrong within a second of yellow jersey at Tour

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

MONTPELLIER, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong stormed to within milliseconds of the Tour de France lead on Tuesday after his Astana squad won the team time trial in a tension-filled finish.

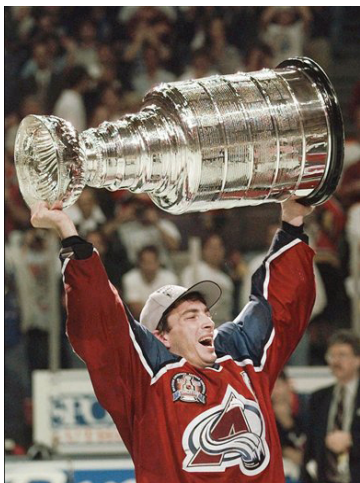
The seven-time Tour winner surged from third place to second overall, and more importantly erased all but a sliver of a 40-second deficit to race leader Fabian Cancellara in the fourth stage. "Boo-YA!!!" Armstrong wrote on

Twitter. "Well, what can I say? The team was simply awesome today. Consistent, fluid, mistake-free. We love this event (TTT) and are stoked to win."

It was reminiscent of Armstrong's dominance in the team time trial for the last three years of his string of victories from 1999 to 2005.

For Armstrong, Tuesday's stage was about allying with his Astana teammate Alberto Contador, the top pre-race favorite, to weed out their potential rivals.

Continued on Page B13



In this June 10, 1996, file photo, Colorado Avalanche captain Joe Sakic holds up the Stanley Cup after beating the Florida Panthers 1-0 in Game 4 Stanley Cup Finals, in Miami.

Associated Press

Source: Sakic will retire after 20 NHL seasons

AP Sports Writer

By PAT GRAHAM

DENVER — Joe Sakic, the Colorado Avalanche's longtime captain who led the team to two Stanley Cup titles, will retire Thursday and end his 20-year NHL career, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because Sakic, a 13-time All-Star, will formally announce his decision Thursday in a news conference.

Sakic, who turned 40 on Tuesday, has been the face of the franchise since the team relocated to Denver from Quebec in 1995. He teamed with Patrick Roy, Peter Forsberg and Adam Foote to capture the Stanley Cup in 1996 and 2001.

It's been a storied career for Sakic, who's won championships and league MVP honors, and led Team Canada to an Olympic gold medal in 2002. □

NL Roundup

Phillies equal 1st inning record in 22-1 win

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Chase Utley hit a three-run homer and Shane Victorino and Greg Dobbs had two-run shots during a 10-run first inning, leading Philadelphia to a 22-1 victory over Cincinnati on Monday night.

Cole Hamels (5-5) allowed one run and three hits in seven innings to earn his first win since shutting out the Los Angeles Dodgers on June 4.

The Phillies tied a club record for most runs in the first inning. They scored 10 three other times, most recently on June 2, 2002, against Montreal.

It was the most runs by Philadelphia since a 26-7 win over the New York Mets at Veterans Stadium on June 11, 1985. The 22 runs were the most in the 6-year history of Citizens Bank Park.

Johnny Cueto (8-5) retired just two batters, allowing nine runs and five hits. It was the shortest outing in the right-hander's 2-year career. Cueto had never allowed more than six earned runs in a game, and his ERA rose from 2.69 to 3.45. Jayson Werth hit a grand slam off infielder Paul Janish in the eighth.

Rockies 1, Nationals 0

At Denver, Jason Marquis pitched eight innings for his major league-leading 11th win and Todd Helton's RBI double in the first provided Colorado's only run.

Fresh off making his first All-Star team, Marquis pitched out of bases-loaded jams in the seventh and eighth innings. Marquis (11-5), who allowed seven hits and struck out three, was coming off a two-hit shutout at Los Angeles on June 30.

Continued on Page B12

AL Roundup

Anderson inspires Athletics win over Red Sox

BOSTON (AP) — Rookie Brett Anderson threw a two-hitter, Oakland's first complete game since last July 8, as he outpitched 21-year veteran John Smoltz in a 6-0 victory over Boston on Monday night.

Former Red Sox star Nomar Garciaparra received a one-minute standing ovation before his first at-bat as an opponent at Fenway Park, then singled twice and drove in the first run.

Anderson, who was 82 days old when Smoltz made his major league debut on April 23, 1988, struck out a career-high nine, walked two and ended Oakland's 151-game stretch without a complete game.

Smoltz gave up four runs in the fourth, including an RBI single by Garciaparra, a two-run double by Mark Ellis and a run-scoring single by Adam Kennedy.

Smoltz made his third start after missing more than a year following shoulder surgery in his 20th season with Atlanta. He remained winless since an 8-0 victory over Florida on April 17, 2008.

At Seattle, Jarrod Washburn tossed a one-hitter for his ninth career complete game to lead the Mariners over Baltimore. Nick Markakis had the only hit off Washburn (4-5), a two-out single in the fourth. Washburn faced just one batter over the minimum, issuing no walks and striking out three in his 110-pitch effort.

Russell Branyan hit his 21st homer, Chris Woodward doubled in two runs and Ichiro Suzuki had an RBI single for Seattle. Washburn recorded the first one-hitter by a Mariner at Safeco Field and 10th in franchise history.

Brad Bergesen (5-3) went six innings for the Orioles, allowing four runs, three earned, and six hits. He walked four and struck out four.

Branyan homered in the first and Suzuki had an RBI single in the fifth to give the Mariners a 2-0 lead. Woodward tacked on a bases-loaded double in the sixth and Ryan Langerhans

added a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Mathis hit a go-ahead three-run homer and Torii Hunter and Juan Rivera added two-run singles as Los Angeles spoiled the return of Josh Hamilton to the Texas lineup.

The teams entered the game tied for first place in the AL West.

Hamilton, an All-Star starter, was 2 for 4 with a double and two strikeouts, after spending the previous 30 games on the disabled list after undergoing abdominal surgery.

Jered Weaver (9-3) allowed four runs and seven hits and struck out nine through seven innings after the Angels staked him to a 9-2 lead. He gave a two-run homer in the seventh to Ian Kinsler, which snapped a career-worst 0-for-24 drought by the Rangers' second baseman.

Kevin Millwood (8-6) gave up nine runs and nine hits over five innings in the shortest of his 18 starts this season.

At Detroit, Mike Jacobs hit a go-ahead solo homer in the ninth and closer Joakim Soria held on for Kansas City's third straight win.

Willie Bloomquist drove in three runs for the Royals, connecting on a home run in the sixth and a two-run triple in the eighth.

Detroit's Ryan Raburn homered in the sixth and had an RBI double in the eighth, making it 3-all.

Jacobs broke the tie with a shot to right off Fernando Rodney, who entered in the ninth after Joel Zumaya allowed Bloomquist to put Kansas City ahead.

Roman Colon earned his first win since 2006, when he was pitching for Detroit, and Soria earned his 13th save.

The Tigers, who opened a homestand after losing two straight at Minnesota, had won eight straight at Comerica Park.

At New York, Ricky Romero extended his scoreless streak to 24 innings before Eric Hinske homered in his Yankees debut as Toronto avoided getting



Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Brett Anderson, right, is congratulated by catcher Kurt Suzuki after Anderson pitched a two-hitter in Oakland's 6-0 win over the Boston Red Sox in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Monday, July 6, 2009.

swept in a four-game series.

Alex Rios hit a three-run homer in the third off Andy Pettitte (8-4), and Scott Rolen extended his career-best hitting streak to 23 games with a two-run double in the seventh that made it 7-1.

Romero (7-3) won his fourth straight start, allowing three

runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. He tied the franchise rookie record for consecutive shutout innings set by Mark Eichhorn in 1986 before Hinske homered in the fifth. Nick Swisher had a two-run single in the seventh for New York, Derek Jeter walked with the bases loaded in the

eighth and pinch-hitter Hideki Matsui had a two-run single in the ninth off Jason Frasor, who earned his third save.

In other AL games it was, Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 6; Kansas City 4, Detroit 3; Oakland 6, Boston 0; L.A. Angels 9, Texas 4; and Seattle 5, Baltimore 0. □

Associated Press

Yahoo, NFL players union settle lawsuit



By AMY FORLITI

Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — Yahoo Inc. and the NFL Players Association have reached a settlement over the use of players' statistics, photos and other data in Yahoo's popular online fantasy football game, but details were not released Tuesday.

Santa Clara, Calif.-based Yahoo sued the NFLPA last month in U.S. District Court in Minnesota, claiming Yahoo shouldn't have to pay royalties to use the data because the information is already publicly

available.

Yahoo dropped the lawsuit Monday, and a judge formally dismissed it Tuesday without prejudice, which leaves open the possibility of bringing it up again. Officials from both parties said a settlement was reached.

Yahoo Sports spokeswoman Nicol Addison said the company doesn't discuss litigation and she wouldn't disclose details.

Andrew Feffer, the union's chief operating officer and executive vice president, also confirmed the settlement,

adding that NFLPA and Yahoo "continue to explore additional opportunities to work together." He did not elaborate.

The last of Yahoo's licensing agreements with NFL Players Inc. expired March 1.

But Yahoo claimed it didn't need authorization, due to a court decision in April in a similar dispute between NFL Players Inc. and CBS Interactive Inc.

Fantasy sports league participants create teams comprised of real players. As the season progresses, participants track their players' statistics to judge how well their team is performing. □

Bolt defies weather to run 19.59 in Lausanne 200m



Usain Bolt of Jamaica runs to win the men's 200 m race at the Athletissima athletics meeting in the Stade Olympique in Lausanne, Switzerland, Tuesday, July 7, 2009.

Associated Press

BRADLEY S. KLAPPER
Associated Press Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Usain Bolt ran the fourth fastest 200-meter race ever in 19.59 seconds in sinking temperatures and heavy rainfall at the Athletissima meet on Tuesday.

It was one-hundredth of a second slower than what American Tyson Gay ran in May with fair weather and a breeze at his back.

But with the temperature in Lausanne dipping to 15 degrees (60 F) and the track slowed by a downpour, Bolt showed he was back in top form a year after winning the 100 and 200 in world records

at the Beijing Olympics.

"I'm in good shape, but I'm not fully ready yet," said the 22-year-old Jamaican, who is aiming to peak for the world championships next month in Berlin. "I still need to work on a few technical things."

Bolt said he was "not concerned with records," even though he was within three-tenths of a second of the 19.30 he posted in Beijing. The other faster time is Michael Johnson's 19.32 at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

LaShawn Merritt was a distant second in 20.41, while fellow American Shawn Crawford — the 2004 Olympic champion and runner-up last year —

finished more than a second behind in fourth.

Bolt's teammate Asafa Powell won the 100 in 10.07 seconds in what he described as a "good race" given the conditions.

"This is what I'm supposed to run like," Powell said.

Underscoring the Jamaican dominance in the sprints, countrywoman Shelly-Ann Fraser won the women's 100 in 11.03 seconds, just 0.03 ahead of American Carmelita Jeter.

"It's important to win here and it's good for preparing for the world championship," said Fraser, the Olympic champion. "The weather is not so bad. A bit cold, but I wasn't thinking about it."

Three other gold medalists in Beijing were soundly beaten.

Jamaica's Melanie Walker was slow out of the blocks in the 400 hurdles and finished fourth as American Tiffany Ross-Williams won in 54.73 seconds, while Australia's Sally McLellan took the 100 hurdles in 12.60 seconds as American Dawn Harper fell back to a disappointing sixth.

In the javelin, Barbora Spotakova of the Czech Republic was upset by Germany's Steffi Nerius. Spotakova rescued second with a final throw of 64.38 meters, nearly 8 meters short of the world record she set at the Olympics a year ago.

Cuba's Yargelis Savigne won

the triple jump with a mark of 14.91 meters. But 2007 world champion Maryam Jamal was second in the 1,500 behind Ethiopia's Gelete Burka, who won in 4 minutes, 0.67 seconds.

On the men's side, Olympic champ Steve Hooker of Australia started his outdoor season by clearing 5.75 meters to win the pole vault.

Cuba's Daryon Robles, another gold medalist in Beijing, won the men's 110 hurdles in 13.18 seconds. "I came here to run a good race," said Robles, whose world record stands at 12.87. "But with this rain, it's too difficult."

For everyone but Bolt, apparently. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Manny Ramirez, left, steps in the batter's box in the fourth inning against the San Diego Padres in a baseball game Friday, July 3, 2009, in San Diego; and New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez reacts after hitting a two-run double in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta, Thursday, June 25, 2009.

Associated Press

NL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B10

Huston Street threw a perfect ninth for his 20th save in 21 chances.

Rookie Craig Stammen (1-4) went a season-high seven innings, giving up five hits and the one run.

Marquis tied the franchise record of 11 first-half wins, sharing the mark with Aaron Cook (2008) and Shawn Chacon (2003).

The Rockies scored their only run in the first when Helton's double into the gap in left-center brought home Clint Barmes.

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds singled home Justin Upton

with two outs in the bottom of the ninth for Arizona.

Upton drew a two-out walk from Cla Meredith (4-2) and stole second before Reynolds lined a single into the left-field corner.

Jon Rauch (1-0) pitched the ninth for the Diamondbacks, who have won three straight for the first time since May 20-23. Tony Gwynn Jr. went 4 for 5 for the Padres, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Kevin Kouzmanoff snapped a 3-3 tie in the seventh with an RBI double. Everth Cabrera made it 5-3 in the eighth as he walked, stole second and third then scored when catcher Miguel Montero's throw sailed past into left field.

Arizona made it 5-4 in the eighth on Gerardo Parra's RBI single. Chad Tracy hit his third career pinch-hit homer to tie it.

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit his first career grand slam to help San Francisco's Matt Cain earn his 10th victory.

Sandoval's 13th homer came off Sean West (3-3) in the fifth innings, Nate Schierholtz added a sacrifice fly as the Giants won for the sixth time in nine games.

In other NL games it was, Chicago Cubs 4, Atlanta 2; Philadelphia 22, Cincinnati 1; Houston 4, Pittsburgh 1; Colorado 1, Washington 0; Arizona 6, San Diego 5; and San Francisco 5, Florida 4. □

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American seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, right, and American Levi Leipheimer, left, react on the podium after winning the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, a team time-trial over 24.2 miles with start and finish in Montpellier, southern France, Tuesday July 7, 2009. Armstrong and overall leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland now have the same time in the overall standings but Cancellara retains the yellow jersey.

Associated Press

ARMSTRONG

Continued from Page B10

Astana clocked 46 minutes, 29 seconds for the 24.2-mile ride in and around Montpellier — 18 seconds better than Garmin, in second, and Saxo Bank in third, 40 seconds back.

Because Armstrong came into the day just 40 seconds back of Saxo Bank rider Cancellara, the winner of Saturday's first stage, it came down to split seconds about who got the coveted yellow jersey.

At the last intermediate time check at the 19-mile mark, Astana was 41 seconds faster than Saxo, putting Armstrong in the lead at that point — and setting up the tense finale.

In the end, the Swiss rider was judged to be a fraction of a second ahead overall, after organizers went back to look over the time from Saturday's individual time trial in Monaco, when results were calculated to thousandths of a second.

"That's Swiss timing," Cancellara said, laughing. "Time is on my side."

After first expressing "a bit of disappointment" on French TV about not capturing the shirt that he knows so well, Armstrong put his performance into perspective.

"That's the way it is. We did our best," he said. "At one point, we thought we had it, but if I look back on our performance ... we were as sound as we could be."

"I have no regrets. I don't look at that and lose sleep or get disappointed," he said at a post-race news conference. "This is a long race, maybe there's one (yellow jersey) in my future."

The potential rivalry between Armstrong and Contador, the Spaniard who won the 2007 Tour, has become a major subtext to the race.

They shelved any such rivalry on Tuesday. Armstrong said he appealed to Contador before the race to work together to distance other contenders.

"My point was to Alberto, 'Look, let's ride perfect, and make this race almost impossible to win for others,'" he said. "And I think we can say that we accomplished that."

Astana dealt a blow to several title hopefuls. Defending champion Carlos Sastre of Spain is 2:44 back; two-time runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia is 2:59 behind; and Giro d'Italian champ Denis Menchov is 3:52 back.

"I think today, the Tour de France is finished for some riders — and we won't go into names — but that's the way that the TTT works now," Armstrong said of the team time trial.

"With no disrespect, it's difficult to make up that time," he said. After Cancellara, the next four riders are from Astana: Armstrong, with the same time; Contador, 19 seconds back in third; 2004 runner-up Andreas Kloeckner of Germany was fourth, 23 seconds back; and Levi Leipheimer of the United States was fifth, 31 seconds behind. □

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Se abre diálogo en crisis por golpe Estado Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA / WASHINGTON (Reuters) - El presidente de Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, mediará en la crisis política que se desató en Honduras tras el golpe de Estado, mientras miles de personas marcharon nuevamente en el país centroamericano a favor y en contra del derrocado mandatario Manuel Zelaya. Este será el primer acercamiento entre el Gobierno interino y Zelaya, que recibió nuevamente el respaldo del presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, durante una reunión en Washington con la secretaria de Estado, Hillary Clinton. “La sesión (de mediación) se ha programado para el día jueves (...) en Costa Rica”, dijo Zelaya a la hondureña Radio Globo desde Washington, tras el

encuentro con Clinton. “Es una decisión acertada. De esa forma, en las próximas horas se va a encontrar la forma de restitución de mi Gobierno, de mi presidencia, que es lo que han pedido las naciones del mundo”, agregó el mandatario, cuya destitución despertó una amplia condena internacional. Zelaya fue secuestrado a punta de rifle por militares y expulsado del país hacia Costa Rica el 28 de junio en la culminación de días de tensión política por la intención del mandatario de realizar una consulta popular que abriera camino a la reelección presidencial. “Lo que sí quiero es no dejarlos salir de aquí hasta que haya un acuerdo”, dijo Arias, premio Nobel de la Paz, en una conferencia de prensa en San José de Costa

Rica. Pero, el Gobierno interino que encabeza Roberto Micheletti ha reiterado que la vuelta al poder de Zelaya no es negociable a pesar de haber aceptado la mediación de Arias, cuyas gestiones en los acuerdos de paz en Centroamérica a fines de la década de 1990 le valieron el Premio Nobel de la Paz. “Vamos a platicar, sí. Hay un programa para el jueves por la mañana al cual nosotros asistiremos con otros miembros de la sociedad hondureña”, dijo Micheletti a periodistas, aunque insistió en que el retorno de Zelaya sólo se daría para que fuera juzgado por traición a la patria y corrupción. Después de la reunión con Zelaya, Clinton dijo que la mediación le parecía la mejor opción para hallar



una salida a la crisis, luego de que el domingo el Gobierno interino impidiera al mandatario aterrizar en la capital hondureña a bordo de un avión fletado por su aliado venezolano, Hugo Chávez. “Creo que es un mejor camino a seguir para él en este momento, que intentar un retorno en vistas de la implacable oposición del régimen de facto”, dijo Clinton a periodistas.

Obama dijo que apoya la restauración de Zelaya a pesar de que se unió al grupo de Gobiernos latinoamericanos de izquierdas críticos de Estados Unidos que lidera Chávez. “América apoya la restauración del presidente democráticamente electo de Honduras, a pesar de que se ha opuesto fuertemente a las políticas americanas”, dijo Obama en un discurso en Rusia. □

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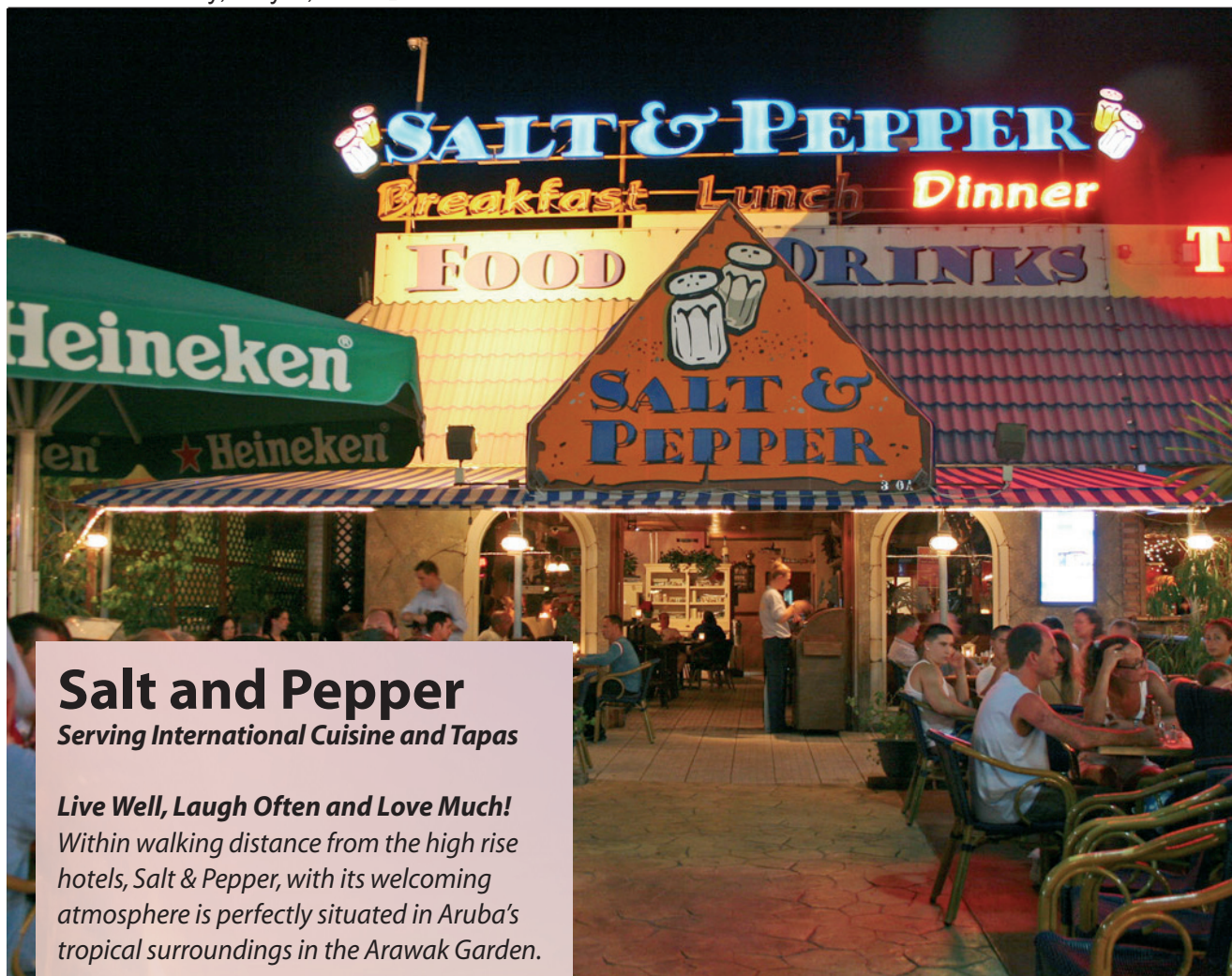
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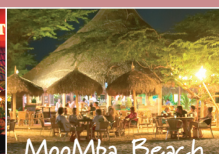
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